THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) A system of charging processing fee along with proposals submitted under the Sponsorship Scheme was introduced only in October, 1990. Doordarshan has collected an amount of Rs. 70,82,000 from applicants for Sponsored Serials in the National Network .These applications under the new sponsorship scheme are being processed and no approval has been conveyed so far. No. centralised data on the number of proposals received or approved by different Doordarshan Kendras is maintained.

(d) No, Sir. Doordarshan is competent to review and make improvements in the quality of serials and telefilms.

Investment in Electronics by Foreign Companies

1624. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Electronics (DOE) had a proposal to identify five foreign companies to invest in India on a massive scale in Electronics, as per the news item entitled "DOE move to get Foreign Firms to invest in India" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 27th July, 1991; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the response from the foreign companies so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is the constant endeavour of the Department of Electronics to identify foreign companies who are leaders in various areas of technology and persuade them to set up manufacturing facilities in India so as to get the benefit of the latest technologies The response from some of the leading companies is encouraging.

T.V. and A.I.R. Coverage of Maharashtra

1625. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large portion of the State of Maharashtra is still uncovered by T.V. and AIR; and

(b) if so, steps taken for expansion of the coverage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) DOORDARSHAN

TV service is at present available to about 599 per cent of the area and 74.7 per cent of the population in the State of Maharashtra. A high power TV transmitter at Ambajogai is envisaged to be commissioned in the State during 1991. Other scheme of TV expansion include the establishment of three low power TV transmitters, one each at Khamgaon, Hinganghat and Akot. With the commissioning of these projects, TV service is expected to be available to about 69.8 per cent areas and 82.1 per cent population of the State.

ALL INDIA RADIO:

At present, the State of Maharashtra receives radio coverage to 97 per cent by area and 98 per cent by population. Schemes for expansion of radio coverage in the State include setting up of new Radio Stations, one each a Chanderpur, Satara Yeotmal, Dhule, Kolhapur, Nasik, Akola and Osmanabad and upgradation of power of Bombay FM transmitter, Bombay Shortwave transmitter and Vividh Bharati transmitter at Pune. With the commissioning of these schemes, radio coverage would be available to practically the entire area and population of the State of Maharashtra.